
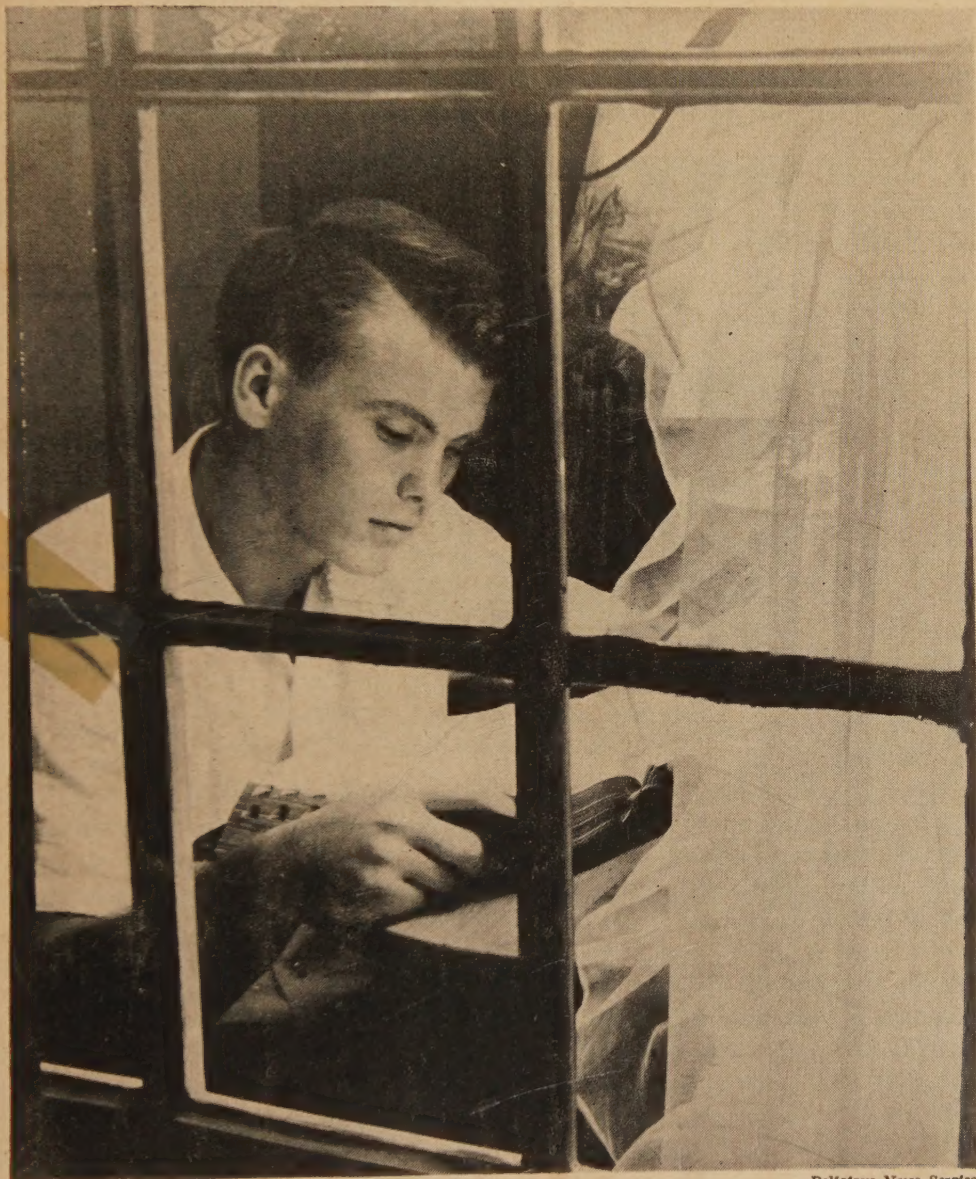


JANUARY 1949

 BIBLE
SOCIETY

Record



Religious News Service

Discovery: 1949

the judgments of the Lord are true and righteous altogether. More
to be desired are they than gold, yea, than much fine gold

V. 94
1949

Japanese Churchmen Speak

*Testimonies from two leaders in the religious life of postwar Japan
to the value of the work the Society is doing there*

BY TAKUO MATSUMOTO AND MICHIO KOZAKI

Rev. Takuo Matsumoto is the first resident of the city of Hiroshima to visit the United States. At the time of the fatal bombing of his city he was head of a school there. They were just coming out of the chapel. He saw sixteen of his faculty and 350 of his students killed. His wife died of heart failure shortly after the attack, and his daughter was severely injured. His own injuries fortunately did not incapacitate him. He writes:

THE Bible is the most eagerly sought-after and most widely read book of all, in Japan today. Two million and a half copies of the Bible and Portions of it, which have been sent so generously from the Bible Society of America to Japan, are all in the hands of glad readers; and many others are wanting to get hold of copies as soon as possible. No complete Bibles are printed in Japan now because of shortage of paper, and it is truly a matter of profound gratitude that so many copies of this "wonderful Book of Love" are so generously being sent to Japan; and the good that is being done to the Japanese people through this generosity is simply incalculable.

Not only Christians but many non-Christians; not merely cultured people but simple-minded laborers, are eager readers of the Bible now. As some observers told me, the Japanese people as a whole are omnivorous readers, and it was an act of statesmanlike sagacity as well as one of Christian charity that the Bible Society has sent copies of the Bible at a time when they are suffering from lack of reading material, ever since the war. For after all, the greatest calamity in Japan today is not the famine of food but, as Amos the Prophet of old declared for his day, the famine of the Word of God.

It is interesting indeed that the Imperial Princes are studying the Bible nowadays. It is a matter of common knowledge that the Empress has for a long

time been having her old kindergarten teacher, Mrs. Yukako Noguchi, who is a devout Christian, come to the Palace regularly and talk to her about the Bible and Christianity. Nowadays Mrs. Tamaki Uemura, who was the first Japanese to visit America after the war, goes to the Palace to speak to the Empress about the Bible. Dr. Kagawa, Mr. Saito of the Y.M.C.A. and other Christian leaders, have had the honor of lecturing on Christianity to the Emperor.

Prince Takamatsu owns many books on the Bible and the Christian religion, and had Rev. T. Kametani



Dr. Matsumoto on a visit to the Bible House last October discusses the Japanese Bible with Nisei workers there

zawa expound them to him at five different times. Prince Shotoku is having a Bible class in his own home and at his own initiative. The leader is Mr. Toraji Tsukamoto, a well-known Biblical scholar. Prince Takekazu listened to Mr. T. Suzuki, a good Bible student, speak to him at his own request on the Bible and Christianity, several times. Another Prince, Prince Kaya, holds a Bible class in his home once a month with Rev. Michio Kozaki as the leader. The Princes are the Emperor's brothers or cousins.

But not merely Princes are studying the Bible. Laborers and employees of banks and factories are also doing it. For instance, about thirty employees of the Nippon Glass Manufacturing Company of Nagoya City are having a Bible class among themselves. The Shiga Bank at Otsu has a similar Bible-study group. The famous Daimaru department store in Osaka is having a good Bible class among the employees on Fridays after the store closes in the afternoon. Two hundred of the laborers of the Nakajima industrial factory in Nagoya City have Rev. Akaishi lead them in Bible study. The Hyogo Provincial Government Workers' Union organized a Bible-study group, with a hundred attending the class.

The Bible classes in churches are being attended by

(Continued on page

Bible Society Record

A JOURNAL DEDICATED TO THE WIDER DISTRIBUTION AND USE OF THE
HOLY SCRIPTURES

VOLUME 94 JANUARY • 1949 NUMBER 1

More to Be Desired than Gold

THE little span of eternity which we call 1949 is a significant anniversary. One hundred years ago our young nation experienced the great California Gold Rush. We have all read of the vast hordes who rushed to the shores of the Pacific, and of the greed, immorality and disregard of human life of those turbulent months of 1849. Have we thought as much of the fact that the greatness of California emanates not alone from the discovery of gold, but from the devotion and labors of those who knew the statement of the 19th Psalm that the Word of God is "more to be desired . . . than gold, yea, than much fine gold"? The State owes a great debt to the faithful who were concerned not with the precious metal but with the precious promises of the Book.

In the year 1847, several months before the discovery at Sutter's Mill, Rev. Chester Lyman of San Francisco recorded in his diary: "At 4 P.M. on Sunday, July 11, Rev. Mr. Newton, chaplain of the *Columbus*, preached on the shore in the new building of Mr. Ross to an audience of 30 or 40 collected on short notice. He gave us an excellent sermon from the 19th Psalm."

One cannot know how many more sermons were preached from that Psalm in the feverish days which followed. It is certain the Word was preached. Clifford M. Drury, in his "Chronology of Protestant Beginnings in California" in the June 1947 "California Historical Quarterly" records that eight Protestant churches were organized in California in 1849. At least one of the mining companies sent a chaplain from the East, which is probably one of the earliest instances of an industrial chaplain. About a score of clergymen came and started preaching services in buildings and tents.

The American Bible Society started work in California in 1849, for there were those who were interested in the distribution of the Scriptures. From this same group of Bible-loving men came many of the leaders who established law and order in the land, brought about the adoption of a State constitution in November of 1849 and led California to admission to the Union in 1850. Through the century of amazing growth, the Bible has had a vital part in the lives of countless citizens of the Golden State.

The history of California speaks to us in this anniversary year. *There is a Bible rush in 1949.* Never before in history has there been such a demand for the Holy Scriptures.

At least part of this hunger for the Word is caused by the fact that more people than ever before have come to realize materialism alone leads to destruction. It has become hackneyed to state the need for a new attention to the things of the spirit. The danger of our inventions has made thinking people all over the world conscious of the truth so urgently advanced to a little company in California a hundred years ago, and to the Psalmist thousands of years ago.

Some of the best news of our day is the desire for the Scriptures in every part of the world. Some of the saddest news is the sobering fact that the people of the United States are not as yet providing sufficient supplies of that which is "more to be desired . . . than gold, yea, than much fine gold."

God grant that man's perception of values may become keen enough to cause him to give of his precious metal to send the Book of Precious Promises rushing to a world which is begging for the Bible!

You Can't Beat the Dutch!

But a Japanese Officer did flog one who persisted in publishing a New Testament in Java during the War

BY MARGARET T. HILLS

IN the autumn of 1939, just as the World War was breaking out in Europe, the Netherlands Bible Society published a new translation of the New Testament in the best current speech, the first revision since the great States General Dutch Bible was published in 1637. The new book immediately became very popular. The demand in the Dutch East Indies was so great that an edition of 15,000 copies was printed in Java in September of 1940, after the invasion of the Netherlands. A group of a dozen amateur proofreaders was rounded up to get this edition through the press quickly, and the printer gave special rates for the project. An edition of 2,000 each of Matthew, Mark, Luke, John and the Acts followed in 1941. But more copies of the entire New Testament were in demand, so in January 1942 the order for a second edition was placed. By the time the type was set, the proof corrected and the presses ready to start the printing of this second edition, the Japanese army had occupied Java, and nothing could be printed without the permission of the Japanese. Then ban was heaped upon ban. The Dutch language was ruled out; no papers were to be published; correspondence must be either in Japanese or an Indonesian language; and in December 1942 the use of Dutch was not permitted on the radio or telephone.

But the demand for Dutch Scriptures was increasing, particularly from the people in the prisons and internment camps. To reprint the whole Dutch Bible was out of the question, but there in the printing shop in Djokjakarta was the type of the new version of the New Testament, all ready for paper and ink. Dr. F. L. Bakker undertook to see what could be done. First he was told that he must produce documents to show that there were no copies of the Dutch New Testament available in all Indonesia. When this requirement was met, came the reply that there were only two languages in the area—Japanese and Malay; only those of “pure Dutch” stock were allowed to read the Dutch language. A subscription list must be produced, signed by expectant purchasers, and each signature must have a declaration by a local Japanese authority that the signer was “pure Dutch.”

As this was practically impossible to carry out, in September, Count Van Randwijck, the former Dutch Missions Consul, who was still free, had opportunity to speak about the matter to another Japanese official, who later arranged that the book could be printed if newsprint were used and that the books would be

used only by Dutch people. All the Netherlands Bible Society's good paper had been used up, but there remained a supply of cheap paper and of ink. This paper was left from that supplied by the American Bible Society. Binding thread had to be secured spool by spool. Written permission was given for the printing of 3,000 copies and for the transfer of the paper from Bandoeng to Djokjakarta. The precious document of permission was taken in person to Bandoeng, and the paper safely transferred. But the permit to print had to come from the civil authorities, and there must also be police permission. A quarrel was going on between these two groups, so the police insisted on an investigation to be sure there were no anti-Japanese expressions in the Testament. This was eventually cleared up but in the meantime the printer, Mr. Ribbens, had been interned, his wife sent to a “protection camp” and the printing house placed under the “Barison Propaganda Nippon,” a propaganda organization. Repeated appeals to the head of this propaganda office to go on with the printing were ignored. Dr. Bakker again reported his difficulties to Count Van Randwijck in Batavia, and eventually a letter was given Dr. Bakker for the head of the local propaganda organization, asking him to make no further objections. When the letter was presented, this official for some reason grew furious and thrashed Dr. Bakker very badly, but did not further interfere with the printing. Ink was secured from the sealed-up stock of Mr. Ribbens, and the wages of the printing shop people were paid—although when they worked for the propaganda office they had not been paid!

And so it came about that on the 17th of October in the year 2603 (Japanese chronology, from the accession of the first Japanese emperor, 660 B.C.) or 1943, the little Dutch New Testament was published in Java and was then distributed in the camps—the first and only publication in Dutch printed during the Japanese occupation.

But there is another story attached to the copy presented by Baron Van Tuyll to the International Missionary Council in recognition of the service which that body had rendered the Christian Movement in Indonesia through the Orphaned Mission Fund, which copy is now deposited with the American Bible Society.

Indonesians were not permitted to have any printed matter in non-Asiatic languages and were

very severely punished if found with any in their possession. A Javanese minister in Batavia, who, of course, was an Indonesian, had several copies and wanted to dispose of them, but only on condition that in return he would receive flints for his cigar lighter. Such a lighter was almost essential to life in Batavia in 1943, as matches were not available. The gasoline could be pilfered from Japanese military dumps, but no flints could be imported and all supplies of them were under Japanese control. Some-

one secured ten flints, and the elder of the church board of the Dutch-speaking congregation of Batavia went to the Javanese minister to get the five Dutch New Testaments. On his way home along lonely back roads with the books concealed in an old bag on the luggage carrier of his bicycle, the elder lost the books. But it "chanced" that a second elder was taking a walk along that road just then and found the bag! It is one of those five copies that the Bible Society now prizes as a cherished possession.

In the Juvenile Prisons of Hamburg

A truly moving Report and an impassioned Appeal from a Prison Chaplain who has seen the Bible powerfully at Work in the Lives of some of Germany's Most Unpromising Citizens

BY GERD STERNBERG

BEHOLD, the days come, saith the Lord God, that I will send a famine in the land, not a famine of bread, nor a thirst for water, but of hearing the words of the Lord" (Amos 8:11).

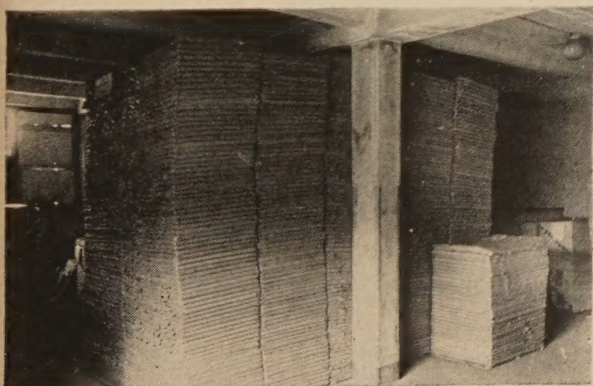
This word of prophecy perfectly expresses the situation which faces the prison chaplains in Hamburg today. The fact is that a people which has passed through all the fears of famine and the apocalyptic errors of physical collapse is gradually being brought to acknowledge that "*One thing is needful*"; and behind all the physical needs, the spiritual needs are coming to the fore and being acknowledged as the real and final needs of our people.

Out of the darkness of the cells and in face of the blank wall of personal guilt, there begins the search for the God of Salvation. Often it is just a tentative, clumsy attempt to enter into conversation again with the lost God of our fathers. Sometimes it is just a childish stammer which goes up to God from the cells of our juveniles. Our German youth has forgotten the language of prayer during the twelve long years when it worshiped an idol. And now it is struggling to find words to speak to the true God. But the important thing is that the young people are

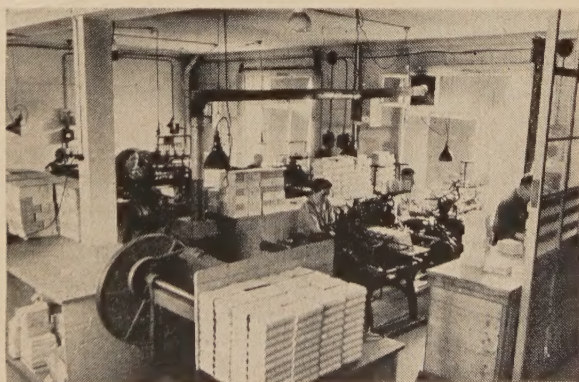
beginning to talk to God, even though they may only be able to cry out: "Lord, help me!"

In our corrupted youth, whose ways have led them through much guilt and sin to the prison cell, it is only too obvious that the search for the true God, the God of Jesus Christ, has now come over them suddenly like a panic. They are seeking Him along the wrong paths, but they *are* seeking Him!

To all who read these lines, I would say as emphatically and as solemnly as I know how: these young people in the prisons are *wanting* to get back to the God of their fathers. This readiness moves us; it places all of us who know about this new situation under an obligation to serve. We prison chaplains are daily amazed at their readiness to listen to the Word of God. These young people really beg us for Bibles and religious literature. Their hearts are still full of the great deception, over the collapse of Germany, the perishing of all previous ideals and their bitterness over the great needs of the present. But they are stretching out to the new things which they have so far mocked at and despised, for they sense that therein lies a dormant power for them—the only one to have shown itself to be powerful and present in



Bible paper from the U.S. at Stuttgart printing plant



Stitching Bibles at Stuttgart

their impoverished and menaced existence.

What more shall I add to our request for the printed Word of God for our prisoners? Let me take you into the prison cells; come and see for yourself! Let me invite you to one of our prison services; come and see how tensely they listen, how their eyes are full of questions! Let me ask you to join in our fellowship around the Lord's table; see their trembling hands and their faces pale with emotion!

Let me tell you something of the greatest experience of my life as a pastor, in the cells of young men condemned to death in a Wehrmacht prison during the war. For a long time I tried to comfort these young men with kind and friendly words; and then I realized how powerless human words are in face of such suffering, such fear of death. And so I put on my robe and let the Word of God speak for itself, the glorious, mighty words of the Savior concerning eternity and the peace of God. And each time, without exception, these young men who found it so hard to leave their young lives and who had previously screamed and cursed in their agony and fear of death, became quite quiet and went to their death in peace. Then I realized how precious the Word of God is for people in desperate need, for people in prison beyond all human aid. "Unless thy law had been my delights, I should then have perished in mine affliction" (Psalm 119:92).

We would beg you to send us the Word of God in our poverty! There is no gift more precious to us. Young men and young women who have not had a Bible in their hands for some ten years or so can be seen in the cells eagerly spelling out the words and studying with their fellow prisoners. Many of them have become so attached to their Bible that they want to take it with them on their release from prison as their companion and guide in a new and better life. Thus the Bible goes out of the prisons and for the first time into many of the homes of our town; and I know that it is also read there. There is no more effective Bible mission than that which goes out from our prisons. My colleagues tell me again and again how a crowd of readers gathers round every Bible that we are able to distribute in the large rooms or in the hospital, and how they eagerly discuss the Book which has come into their lives and come to life again for the first time as a welcome messenger from long-forgotten times and childhood days.

Experience has taught us that the prisoners read their way into the treasures of the Scriptures quite slowly, and that thus the glory of the message opens up gradually before them. It is remarkable that, in studying the Bible, the desire for novels disappears more and more, and that the Bible, by virtue of its inner power, also becomes the "Book of Books" for the prisoners!

As a word of thanks for all previous gifts, let me assure you from the depth of my heart: at this present

time of need our people would have again become a people full of anger and hatred if, at the time of collapse, they had not experienced in such richness the love and mercy of Christian brethren all over the world! We are experiencing the new form of love which is manifested in Jesus Christ, which reaches to the ends of the earth and which turns to those very ones who are perhaps the most unworthy of being loved. Our prisoners are among the most unlovable people of our nation, for they have taken advantage of the needs of their own brethren. But they are the very ones who feel it most when we really love them as Christ loved us, who are also imprisoned in the grip of manifold sins. These prisoners are closely related to us! We are brethren in the *same* guilt, the *same* love and the *same* hope. This we can say with real certainty: however callous, embittered and unlovable they may be, up to the present each one of them has been inwardly improved and overcome by sacrificial, helping Christian love.

Our cry unto you is therefore: "Come over and help us!"

Secretary Betts Resigns

At the meeting of the Board of Managers of the Society, December 2, 1948, Secretary Rome A. Betts presented his resignation, to take effect January 1,

1949. Mr. Betts had been with the Society since March 1, 1936 and became a General Secretary in 1942.

He leaves to become the Executive Secretary of the American Heart Association, with headquarters in New York City. Mr. Betts' work was principally in the field of promotion of income from individuals. The familiar signature "Rome A. Betts" is known to every Bible Society member across the land. During the near



Rome A. Betts

ly thirteen years of his association with the Society Mr. Betts endeared himself not only to his colleagues but to hosts of friends of the Society, many of whom he made in his constant travels to every part of our land. Beginning February first, General Secretary Robert T. Taylor, now located in the Society's Chicago office will take over the major portion of Mr. Betts' duties.

Japanese Churchmen Speak

(Continued from page 2)

eager students of the Book—and this situation offers to missionaries one of the greatest opportunities for significant service. Indeed, their Bible classes are very popular among young people, and certainly they are kept busy thereby. Miss Mary McMillan of our school in Hiroshima, for instance, enjoys an ever-increasing attendance of young students and others in her Sunday-morning Bible class—the mayor being one of the pupils, although he cannot come every Sunday because of his busy duties.

Institutes for Bible study are being held all over the country. I had the privilege of being invited as the lecturer in some of such institutes. At Fukuoka I spoke at such an institute for seven consecutive nights, and we had an average attendance of a little over a hundred men and women. They would come paying a fee of fifteen yen each, and in spite of uncertain safety at night time.

A special magazine for the purpose of promoting Bible study has been started and enjoys a wide circulation. Commentaries of the Bible are among the best sellers.

A few new publishers have come forth lately with Biblical and Christian books. One of them is printing at this very moment my Introduction to the New Testament literature published some years ago, the original of which was burned away by the bombing. It is expected that it will be published again by Christmas time. I hope it may prove to be a good Christmas gift to many an eager student of the Bible. I may add that another book of mine on the New Testament characters, which enjoyed a wide circulation, will be republished by another new Christian publisher, by Christmas this year.

A series of commentaries on the Old Testament is being planned and carried out by the Methodist Book Concern in Japan; and commentaries on the Book of Genesis by Professor Watanabe and on the Book of Psalms by Professor Asano are expected to appear soon.

Rev. Dr. Yamaya's commentaries on the New Testament are excellent and are among the most widely read of Christian publications in Japan.

I believe nothing is more sorely needed and more vitally significant than the study of the Bible in Japan today, and it is my hope that I may yet have a part in promoting the use and understanding of the great and holy Word of God. Let us not slacken our efforts toward this aim, which I firmly believe is one of the most urgent and at the same time most fruitful activities in the Christianization of Japan.

Dr. Kozaki:

Some people in Japan get weak eyesight and they do not know the reason, but when discovered by a doctor to be caused by a lack of vitamin,

they are cured by a supply of that vitamin in their food.

Over 2,000,000 copies of the New Testament printed in the Japanese, poured into Japan right after the end of war by the American Bible Society, did such thing to the Japanese.

It gave a great hope and joy, knowing that there are many Christian friends in the United States and



Rev. Michio Kozaki is the Moderator of the Church of Christ in Japan and a member of the Board of Managers of the Japan Bible Society.

North America who are so kind to send out such gift, although under defeat and destruction the Japanese lost all hope in life.

More than that, the appearance of the beautiful New Testament in churches and stores, and even on the busy streets, gave the Japanese new spiritual courage and vitality.

It was a new signal that Christians are members of one body—the Body of Christ, the universal Church. It gave a renewed faith to the Christians and it was a new miracle to non-Christian Japanese. At the time of spiritual vacuum and at the time of no good reading materials because of lack of paper, the New Testament shines like sun in darkness.

Of course it is essential to have the New Testament in spreading the Gospel. How happy it is for our 2,000 preachers in Japan! Now most of our churches have more than twice as many people present in the regular services, and many new seekers are crowding in churches.

Moreover it is clear that the new Japan, which is now democratic in the form of government and no more a militaristic or totalitarian society, must have a new foundation. If the new Japan was not founded on the Gospel of Christ, she never could be a real democratic nation, nor could she become a good member of the family of nations, for the realization of which all Christian people all over the world are praying and doing their best.

Japan is now ready to accept Christianity provided that we Christians can utilize all opportunity which is with us. For this purpose the New Testament and the Bible are of course the first essential.

We are more than grateful for all the New Testaments, the Bibles and other materials sent to us by the American Bible Society, and we hope for your continued cooperation and prayer for the practical work of producing "the Best Book" by the Japan Bible Society and for the whole Christian program of Christianizing Japan.

The Bible Means

The epochal story of how the Finnish People celebrated a Four Hundredth Anniversary

BY FRANK

THE first man to buy a bag of coffee at the office of the Finnish Bible Society on October 2 was the manager of the property where the new Bible House is to be built. He is a cautious, careful, prudent man.



Dr. S. D. Michelfelder, representing the American Bible Society at the Turku celebration, announces the gift of coffee from the Society. His interpreter is Rev. Samuel Lehtonen, son of Finland's Archbishop

The coffee was expensive. He took his bag home, brewed a pot and took a taste. He was back in an hour to buy twenty-four more bags!

And why was the Finnish Bible Society selling coffee? Some of our readers will recall the brief story which appeared in the *Record* last October. As a duty-free gift to be sold in the free market under full government approval, the American Bible Society sent 22,414 pounds of raw Brazilian coffee to the Finnish Bible Society. With the sale of this coffee funds were to be raised for the erection of the Society's Bible House in Turku (Abo). Formerly the

Finnish Bible Society had a commodious home in the city of Sortavala, which was completely destroyed in the war with Russia in 1939.

But the day the first of the nearly 40,000 bags of coffee were sold was not just another day. It was one of the three days in which all of Finland rejoiced in her possession of the Bible, for it was the 400th anniversary of the first translation of the New Testament into the Finnish tongue. The coffee was called "Agricola Coffee" after Bishop Michael Agricola, who in 1548 completed his work of translation.

The celebration began on Friday afternoon, October 1, when seventeen auxiliary Bible Societies united in a general meeting of the Finnish Bible Society. Archbishop Aleksi Lehtonen, head of the Finnish Church (Lutheran), presided, and most of the program dealt with the problem of promoting Bible reading. This same concern marked the meeting Saturday morning in the 700-year-old Turku cathedral, which was attended by a great company of school children, who were also told about the significance of the Agricola New Testament and its influence on the language and literature of Finland.

On Saturday afternoon Archbishop Lehtonen entertained at a two-hour tea party what was probably the largest group of pastors and Bible Society representatives in Finnish history.

All day Saturday and Sunday four post-office officials with special canceling equipment were kept busy stamping the first-day covers on a special envelope bearing the three commemorative stamps shown in the accompanying cut.

The climax of the celebration was the crowded and colorful service held at ten o'clock on Sunday morning in the Cathedral in Turku (Abo). The President of the Republic, Dr. Juho Kusti Paasikivi, was

Commemorative stamps issued



*for
Bishop
Agricola
Festival*

Something in Finland

Anniversary, and the part played therein by the American Bible Society

STIFLER

present with his wife and participated. The Finnish Bible Society presented an original edition of the Agricola New Testament of 1548 to the clergy of the Turku cathedral, where 400 years ago Michael Agricola, its translator, had worked first as headmaster of the cathedral school and later had presided as bishop. The service lasted till noon and was repeated from then until 2 P.M. for the general public. The offerings were devoted to the cost of erecting a monument to Bishop Agricola, a plaster model of which was on hand and is pictured here.

At 3:30 in the afternoon a great service, which was broadcast to the whole nation, was held in the cathedral, at which the President of the Republic and other high officials attended. Great choirs participated, and a collection was taken for the Finnish Bible Society. Among those who spoke, besides the President of the Republic, were Bishop B. Jonzon for the Swedish Church; the Rector of the University of Helsinki; and Bishop Berggrav on behalf not only of the Church of Norway, of which he is head, but also of the United Bible Societies, of which he is President.

The Bishop of Jarrow spoke in behalf of the English Church and the British and Foreign Bible Society, again stressing the importance of widespread and regular Bible reading and commending some of the successful procedures to that end that had marked English Church life.

Three American churchmen participated—Dr. Alfred Haapanen of the Suomi Synod (Finnish-American Church), Dr. Sigfrid E. Engstrom, representing the Lutheran Churches of the United States, and Dr. Sylvester C. Michelfelder, Executive Secretary of the Lutheran World Federation. All three

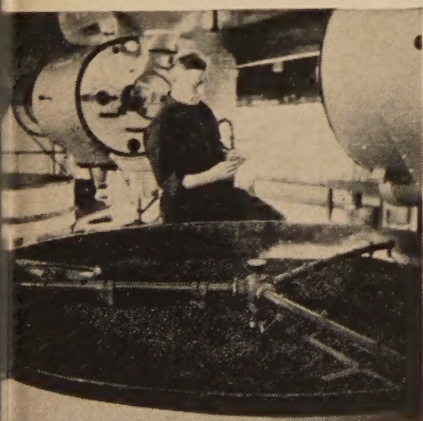


Plaster cast of monument of Bishop Michael Agricola to be erected in Turku

men represented the American Bible Society. To quote quite accurately from a letter to the Bible House in New York by Mr. Toivo Winter, General Secretary of the Finnish Bible Society: "When Dr. Michelfelder, as the representative of the American

AGRICOLA COFFEE:

Roasting



Packaging



Selling



Bible Society, brought your greeting and explained the idea of the most generous gift, in the cathedral of Turku-Abo on the third of October for 2,000 people and 4,000,000 listening in the broadcast, we observed a roar in the congregation. All the people has been very pleased, moved and grateful, and a great respect and gratitude for the American Bible Society filled the hearts. And when the Archbishop of Finland answered the greetings, he told that the new house that will be built with the help of the coffee will be called 'Michael Agricola House'; it was the greatest success and most pleasant news the people of Finland received on this occasion."

The three-day celebration in Turku (Abo) may possibly be best interpreted to us through the editorial columns of the "Church Times" of London. On October 15 it commented:

"The Church of Finland has just celebrated the fourth centenary of the translation of the New Testament into the Finnish tongue. This was the work of Michael Agricola, who not only became known as the Father of the Finnish literature, but who, as Bishop of Abo, helped to guide his Church through the turbulent seas of the Reformation period. Largely as a result of his guidance the Reformation in Finland was more an evolution than a revolution.

"More, perhaps, than in any other Nordic country the liturgical life and the outward forms of mediaeval religion continued in Finland, much as they had ever been, though the Lutheran doctrine of justification was the point of stress. For this conservative trend of the Finnish Reformation, thanks are mainly due to Michael Agricola. Later ages have seen a diminution of this outward continuity, but even to-day there is very much in the Finnish Church to make even the Catholic-minded Anglican curiously at home in its worship and Churchlife.

At the great Sunday afternoon Festival Service the President of Finland, Dr. J. K. Paasikivi, said: "Humanity has not accomplished its lasting achievements through weapons of war and aggression, but with spiritual means. They are achievements of peace. To-day we celebrate one such great achievement, the first publication of the Finnish New Testament by Michael Agricola. It was a significant event, not only in the history of our Church, but in the history of the whole Finnish nation. Agricola not only gave his people the Holy Scriptures; he laid the foundation of the Finnish literature and culture. As a President of the Republic I congratulate the Church of Finland at this noble festival, and thank the Church for its great work for the benefit of this nation in the course of the centuries. I feel confident that the protecting hand of the Almighty will even in the future, as up to now, guard us and give us strength to endure even the hardest trials."

"A visit to Finland is a tonic for drooping spirits and fearful hearts. The nation has been through more than its share of bitter suffering and misery, even in these days. Its freedom appears to us to hang by a thread. It carries a gigantic burden of war 'reparations.' Yet its people are full of infectious courage and hopefulness. The Church of

Finland, with its wise and gracious Archbishop at the helm, has leavened the nation with its supernatural vision and hope."

Yes, the Bible means much to Finland, a country for whom Americans have always had profound respect. The very direct part which our Church-people have had through the American Bible Society in undergirding Finland's religious life, with help toward her more adequate supply of the Scriptures at this uncertain hour in her history, is cause for genuine gratitude.

Something to Pray About

Among the hundreds of thousands of Scripture volumes requested by the church leaders and missionaries of Korea last year were 15,000 Russian New Testaments, to be distributed, it was hoped, above



Mr. Voelkel (center) with Russian liaison officers and wife and child of one of them

the 38th parallel, where Russia controls Korea's affairs. Little has been heard of the use to which these books have been put, but one encouraging instance has come to light. It is contained in correspondence from Rev. Harold Voelkel, who has just returned to this country after extended service as a missionary in Korea. Writes Mr. Voelkel:

I learned that there were two liaison Russian officers in Seoul and also a junior Russian diplomat in the former Russian consulate. With the aid of a Russian friend, a former teacher of languages in our foreign school for missionary children, as my interpreter, I sold these three Russians copies of the New Testament. From later conversation I learned that they were reading them. They also commented on the high quality of paper and excellent printing. The Russians were most cordial to me, inviting me to stay for lunch with them, which I greatly regretted I could not do. I did, however, later have an opportunity for an unhurried chat with them, and snapped the accompanying picture, among others.

I appealed to these three men to intercede with the Russian commander in the north to permit us to distribute the Scriptures among the troops, which they promised

lo. The day before I sailed from Korea I called on my Russian friends again, and again they cordially agreed to do all they could to carry out my request. They make a trip north once a month on a private train.

There are unquestioned evidences of loyalty to Christ and His Church even in the Russian army. This contact with the Russians has been an inspiration to my own soul to pray for them. Let us all keep on praying that God will touch the heart of the commander, that he will let us put the Word of God into the hands, and ultimately into the hearts, of Russian troops in Korea.

A Report from Denmark

Secretary Christopher Seidelin of the Danish Bible Society has written briefly of the achievements of their work for the year closing in the summer of 1948. It was a good year, reflecting the rapid recovery of Europe and especially of the Low Countries.

The principal event was the authorization by the King of Denmark of the new translation of the New Testament, which occurred June 15, 1948. Since Denmark has just adopted a new orthography it will be necessary to publish the new translation in two forms, one using the old spelling arrangement and the other the new. The Society is busy now with proofreading, printing and binding these new books.

The distribution for the year was 64,612 volumes—9,888 Bibles, 44,033 New Testaments and 691 Gospel portions. Of the New Testaments, 950 were sent to the Faroe Islands in the Faroe language. The Society has done much for the German refugees from East Prussia who swarmed into Denmark in the spring of 1945 and the American Bible Society has provided many German Scriptures for this purpose.

In its promotion of Bible Reading the Society distributed through the pastors 220,000 free lists containing suggestions. Theological students were also furnished Greek New Testaments and Hebrew Old Testaments free. The blind were also supplied with embossed Scriptures.

Representatives of the Society attended both the Bible translators' meeting in Zeist, Holland, in October 1947 and the United Bible Societies' meeting in Dunblane, Scotland in June. The Society's income for 1947 was 361,928 crowns, approximately \$90,000.

"Yes, It Really Was!"

Miss Mary Morlock of Dayton, Ohio, in forwarding a gift for the work of Scripture distribution, wrote to the Society one day last fall as follows:

"Since I have always been interested in the work of the American Bible Society, it was with considerable pleasure that I recently received a letter from a young business girl in Germany, from which I quote in part below:

Recently I went into a bookstore to see if there was any
(Continued on page 12)



Word of the death of Rev. John R. Temple, D.D., General Secretary of the British and Foreign Bible Society, came as a shock to the Officers and staff at the Bible House just as the Society's Advisory Council were assembling for their opening session. Dr. Temple's visits to New York since the war had greatly endeared him to the workers at the Bible House.

At the meeting of the Board of Managers on December 2, the following resolution was adopted:

The Board of Managers of the American Bible Society records with sorrow the death on November 30, in Hong-kong, China, of the Reverend Doctor John R. Temple, General Secretary of the British and Foreign Bible Society and General Secretary of the United Bible Societies. His seventeen years of service with the British and Foreign Bible Society, after a missionary and pastoral career, were marked by a strong conception of its historic mission, by warm devotion to the cause and its servants, and by constant eagerness for the effective cooperation of the several national Bible Societies. This latter conviction bore valuable fruitage in his efforts to draw the Bible Societies together at the end of the war and in the formation of the United Bible Societies, of which he became the first Secretary.

Dr. Temple was held in high esteem by his fellow Methodists in England and by his fellow Secretaries in the mission boards of Great Britain. He had recently been Chairman of the Conference of British Missionary Societies.

The Officers and Board members of the American Bible Society have warm recollections of his visits to America and of fellowship with him throughout the years of his service, and deeply regret his loss.

They extend their sympathy to the Officers and Committee of the British and Foreign Bible Society, and in particular to Mrs. Temple, their four sons and their families.

May the comfort and guidance of the Heavenly Father be with his family and friends and with those on whom his duties now fall!

"Yes, It Really Was!"

(Continued from page 11)

thing I could buy. Ahead of me in the store was a lady buying what seemed to be a New Testament. I couldn't believe my eyes and thought I surely must have been mistaken. As my turn came, however, I took courage and asked the saleslady for a New Testament. Without hesitation she went to a shelf and brought me what I had desired, and at such a very low price that I was astonished, although completely at a loss to understand how such a thing could be possible. Overjoyed with my treasure I hurried back to work, and there carefully opened my package to reassure myself that I had not been dreaming. No, it wasn't a dream, but reality—I had been able to buy a New Testament! I started to examine my treasure very carefully and then I found that the distribution of my New Testament had been made possible through the American Bible Society in New York.

To the people across the ocean who think of us and who are so kind to us, a poor and despised nation, I would like through this means to express my most sincere thanks."

Scriptures at a County Fair

A venture in evangelism was undertaken by the Lutherans of Montgomery County under the auspices of the Lutheran Inner Mission League of the Miami Valley, Dayton, Ohio, in the opening of a booth at the Montgomery County Fair. Though denominational literature was distributed and needlework by the aged women of Bethany Lutheran Village shown, the display of various Bible translations loaned by the American Bible Society commanded a great deal of attention. The display was emphasized by fluorescent lights in a glass case. American Bible Society literature was distributed along with Scripture portions furnished by the Society.

A five-year-old lad, when he saw his first Braille book, said to his brother, "Look, Tommy, here's a Bible with polka dots on it."

For a quarter of a century the Lutheran Inner Mis-

sion has distributed the Scriptures printed by the American Bible Society, in fourteen institutions in the Miami Valley—to the prisoners in jail, tuberculosis patients, mental patients and those in general hospitals.

A man found dead and taken to the morgue was identified by one of the Gospel portions he had in his pocket, underscored at John 3:16. A woman in the State Hospital who had not spoken an audible word for four years was seen to open the Testament from which the pastor had read the 14th chapter of John. A man from Kentucky who is now spending the rest of his life at Ohio State Penitentiary said, "If somebody had given me a Bible when I was a boy and taught me how to understand it, I might not be where I am today."

Good News from Greece

In the April 1948 issue of the *Bible Society Record* we reported the visit to the Bible House of Mr. Demetrios Papaconstantinou, publishing superintendent of the Zoe Brotherhood of Greece, who at that time was requesting paper and other materials for the production of 100,000 Greek Testaments for distribution among his countrymen. Under date of August 20, 1948, Mr. Papaconstantinou wrote Mr. Darlington as follows:

Now, after an improvement in life conditions, the Brotherhood has been able to get, easily and through their own means, a supply of paper and other useful materials and to proceed with the printing of the New Testament in two new shapes and in hundreds of thousands of copies. They thus hope to satisfy the ever-increasing spiritual thirst of the Greek people.

Please accept our warmest thanks for your good will toward the Zoe Brotherhood.

It is cheering reports like this from war-impoorished lands that encourage us to strive on to help other nations, not so fortunate as Greece has been, to see their Scripture needs supplied.



Students from the Philippines, Burma and China study the Society's permanent exhibit of Scriptures in the Religious Art Center at the Northern Baptist Assembly, Green Lake, Wisconsin

LEFT TO RIGHT: Esther Leah Cervantes, Iloilo, P.I.; Hans Scherling, missionary's son from Rangoon, Burma; Mrs. Luther Wesley Smith, instructor; Lillian Hsu, Shanghai, China. Esther Cervantes is studying at Colorado Women's College and Lillian Hsu at Northwestern University

MEMBERS' FORUM

Annual Membership in the Society is secured through gift of \$5 or more for the carrying on of its work. The Society also provides for Life Membership, Life Directorship and Memorial Membership. Particulars will be sent on request. The editors welcome correspondence from members and devote this page in each issue to that purpose.]

From New York City:

The *Bible Society Record* came to me today and I am thrilled with its reading. . . . My assets and annual income are committed to the Baptist Home for my wife while life lasts. I do have a small allowance from my income to provide for necessities and much of it is used for my church and missionary offerings.

To my continued surprise I occasionally receive money gifts from relatives and friends instead of "things," too many of which in past years I neither needed nor wanted. The money gifts I can use, and the next one that comes will be sent to the Bible Society; for I would like to be an annual member if possible.

From St. Louis, Missouri:

The President of a large manufacturing concern who mails a copy of the *Bible Society Record* to each of the members of the official boards of his Church each month, writes to Secretary Betts as follows:

"It occurred to me that you might be interested in knowing that we have placed a Bible in the desk and work-bench drawer of each employee in our plant, and we have placed on the inside of the cover a label worded as follows:

Please do not remove this Bible from the premises. If you are interested in having a copy, we will be glad to furnish you one without cost upon application at the office.

The reason I mention the above is that it occurred to me maybe other manufacturing concerns might adopt a similar practice if you brought it to their attention."

From Williamsport, Pa.:

I enclose my check for \$100. Your October *Record* is a great "record" of the great work, under God, that you are doing.

From Parris Island, South Carolina:

The Post Chaplain at the Marine Corps Recruiting Depot writes:

"We appreciate more than words can express your cooperation in furnishing this post with copies of the New Testament and Bibles." The chaplain enclosed a copy of a printed letter he sends to the parents or next of kin of all the recruits. One paragraph of the letter reads in part as follows:

"Through the courtesy of the American Bible Society . . . we are able to present each recruit with a New Testament. Most of the woes of the world are the result of man's departure from God's Law as revealed in His Word. We believe that peace and happiness will come to mankind only in so far as men abide by the principles of the Gospel. We encourage the Marines to read God's Word regularly and we urge you to join with your son in the daily reading of the Bible."

The chaplain also enclosed one sheet of a letter he had received from the parents of a recruit living in Newbern, Tennessee, in which they say:

"Little did we realize when we began contributing to the Bible Society that our son would some day use a Testament furnished by them.

We have always been glad to do what little we could to help this Bible Society supply Testaments for young men. Some, I'm sure, have never before owned a Testament or Bible."

From Sault Sainte Marie, Michigan:

Enclosed please find money order for twenty dollars for "New Testaments" in good-size print.

I sent you ten dollars recently, which I thought was plenty for me to give, as my income is very, very small. But when I read in your magazine how you are far, far short of funds, I was worried; and I presented your need to five folks and received nothing. So I just took twenty dollars of my own, which will put my tithe into next year; or put me in the 15% or 20% class of givers, since, of course, this is not the only good cause on my list.

From Richmond, Indiana:

Let me say in the beginning that I am an elderly "shut-in" living with a young couple. Last week, when the September *Record* arrived, I opened it and read aloud the query at the beginning of the first article on Bible Reading. At once the young wife answered the query by saying that detective stories excite and stir up one, but the Bible gives a great peace and calm and one can sleep. To me this opened up a line of thought that has proved interesting. Those of us who are Bible students are well aware that just one verse gives us everything we need at the time. That shows how rich the Bible verses are, and the rest that comes to us is only fulfilling God's promises to us. When our young people of today are thinking through on serious things, our nation will be safe in their hands if they are depending on the Bible for their direction.

From Holdingford, Minnesota:

Enclosed is a check for \$15 from a cheerful giver, which is to be used for Testaments sent to Japan, in memory of the departed members of South Elmdale Congregational Church.

EDITORIAL COMMENT

Bible Society Record

A Journal Dedicated to the Wider Distribution and Use of the Holy Scriptures

Editors: THE SECRETARIES

Address correspondence to the
Managing Editor

FRANCIS CARR STIFLER

450 Park Avenue

New York 22, N. Y.



Vol. 94 JANUARY 1949 No. 1

Daily Bible Readings

JANUARY

Day	Book	Chapter	Day	Book	Chapter
1	Psalms	19	17	I Thessalonians	
2	Sunday; Matthew	7			4:7-18
3	John	15:1-17	18	Galatians	5:13-26
4	I John	3:1-10	19	Luke	6:39-49
5	Psalms	34	20	Hebrews	13
6	Matthew	2:1-12	21	Luke	6:20-38
7	Matthew	5:13-26	22	Psalms	42
8	II Timothy	4:1-8	23	Sunday; Luke	
9	Sunday; John	17			16:1-18
10	Psalms	67	24	I Corinthians	3
11	Philippians	4:4-9	25	Acts	26
12	Luke	14:7-11	26	I John	3:11-24
13	Galatians	6:1-10	27	Ephesians	5
14	I John	4:7-21	28	Psalms	15
15	Philippians	4:11-23	29	Proverbs	2:1-9
16	Sunday; Luke		30	Sunday; Genesis	1
		15:11-32	31	Genesis	2

* *

Faith in Our Time

Secretary Stifler will be heard on many stations of the Mutual Broadcasting System on the four Tuesdays of January, on the popular morning program "Faith in Our Time." The hour is 10:15 a.m. EST. The themes will be: January 4, "Here's Another Letter, Theophilus"; January 11, "How to Build a Beautiful Home"; January 18, "Anything Breakable?"; January 25, "A Raider Returns."

* *

Worldwide Bible Reading

The Society's unrelenting effort to encourage the regular, purposeful reading of the Bible by the greatest number of people, not only here at home but in every land of earth, has been greatly blessed by the response to its Worldwide Bible Reading program, which was in progress as these paragraphs were writ-

ten. With the endorsement of President Truman and thirty-eight Governors, the observance, as far as determinable statistics can reveal it, has far outstripped every other year: Orders for the material to be used by the pastors of churches exceeded those of last year by 20 percent, while those from individuals more than doubled last year's requests. A much wider variety of groups, other than churches, were reflected in the orders for the Reading-list bookmarks. Among these were libraries, bookstores, hotels, chambers of commerce and industrial concerns. Many more chaplains wrote in for supplies. The orders were for larger quantities from people who planned to distribute the lists in schools, hospitals, offices and among friends. The poster has proven enormously popular and has been reproduced in hundreds of periodicals, many times in a cover design.

Again as last year, the Reading lists were reproduced in scores of magazines, not only religious journals but in the secular press and in house organs, such as, to mention only three, the *Pullman News*, *Westinghouse House Organ*, and *Railroad Workers' Journal*.

The radio coverage has been nationwide. Hundreds of local stations carried programs of a wide variety—addresses, interviews, panel discussions, Bible quizzes and dramatic sketches. Many commercial programs with high listener ratings cooperated, some offering the lists to their listeners, resulting in requests for tens of thousands of copies. For the first time the program was introduced on Thanksgiving Day by television in New York City. All four of the national networks carried special programs on Universal Bible Sunday or the day before.

The celebration earned more extensively than ever its designation as "worldwide." From December 1 through Christmas Day the World Wide Broadcasting Foundation of Boston and New York City, operating three powerful short-wave stations, beamed the voices of the Society's Officers to all quarters of the world as they read the passages each afternoon. The celebration spread to many countries. Promoted by the Society's foreign Agencies, the readings and posters were distributed in various languages, the exact number of which is not known at this writing. The bookmark-Reading lists distributed in English exceeded 14,000,000, and again as last year,

the number of reproductions of the Reading list in periodicals and elsewhere surpassed that of the bookmarks, totaling over 20,000,000.

Possibly the surest test of the permanent usefulness of Worldwide Bible Reading from Thanksgiving to Christmas is in the popularity of the daily Reading lists (for each day of the year 1949) which the Society issues annually. To meet the growing demand for these, the Society published 1,000,000 copies for 1949, as against 800,000 for 1947, and is keeping the type intact for further reprinting.

* *

A New Magazine is Born

By action of the Board of Managers, the *Junior Bible Society Record* was authorized, its first edition to appear in January 1949.

The purpose of this quarterly publication is to acquaint the boys and girls of the Sunday schools of the country with the worldwide work of the American Bible Society, and to encourage the young people to have a share in the wider distribution of the Bible through the sale of Bible Seals. Every child selling one or more sheets of seals will receive a year's subscription to the *Junior Bible Society Record*. The little magazine will be sent in bundles to the superintendents for distribution in the schools. In a later edition of the *Bible Society Record* a more detailed statement of the new publication will be given.

* *

November Meeting of the Board

A meeting of the Board of Managers of the American Bible Society in its one hundred and thirty-third year was held at the Bible House, 450 Park Avenue, New York 22, on Thursday, November 4, 1948, at 3:30 o'clock, Mr. Harry Hodges in the Chair.

Devotional exercises were conducted by Rev. Dr. Channing H. Tobias.

Mr. Sterling W. Fisher and Mrs. Jesse M. Bader were elected members of the Board of Managers.

The Board approved of the theme "The Book to Live By" for the Worldwide Bible Reading for 1949.

It was reported that the new address of the Northwestern District is 47 South 9th Street, Minneapolis, Minn.

Authorization was given for the printing of a new edition of the Korean New Testament.

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Mr. William A. Yeoman, 1 Clinton Street, Newark 2, N.J.

Depositories—To Which Orders for Scriptures Should Be Sent

New York City 22—Bible House, 450 Park Avenue.....New York, New Jersey, Penna., Del., Maryland, D. C., Virginia, W. Va.

Atlanta 3, Georgia—85 Walton St.....No. Carolina, So. Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Tenn., Alabama, Mississippi

Chicago 1, Illinois—35 E. Wacker Drive.....Colorado, New Mexico, Mont., Idaho, Wyo., Utah, Ariz., Ohio, Ky., Ind., Ill., Iowa, Mo., Mich., Wis., Minn., N. Dak., S. Dak., Neb., Kan.

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Central America—Rev. Raymond R. Gregory, Bible House, Box J, Cristóbal, Canal Zone

Colombia-Venezuela—(Acting) Rev. Raymond R. Gregory, Bible House, Box J, Cristóbal, Canal Zone

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Vermont—Rev. Stanley B. Hyde, 189 South Winooski Ave., Burlington

Massachusetts—Rev. F. K. Singiser, D.D., 41 Bromfield St., Boston 8

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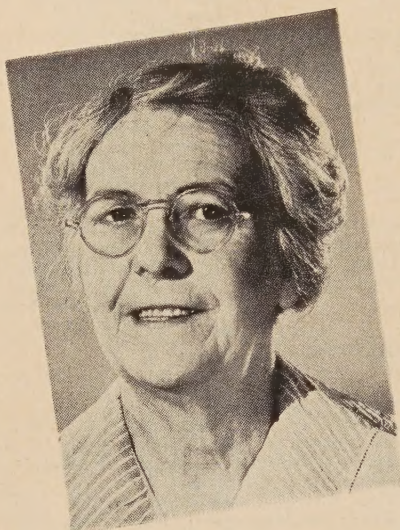
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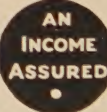
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As a holder of an Annuity Agreement of the American Bible Society you receive a check at stated intervals, regardless of disturbing world conditions. Such checks have never failed, though they have been issued regularly for more than 100 years. You enjoy protection in old age

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